

Good Morning Senator Edith Prague, Representative Kevin Ryan, and Distinguished Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Trooper First Class Carlo Guerra, I have been a trooper for approximately 15 years and I am currently assigned to the Traffic Services Unit, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team also known as the "Truck Squad". I have been a member of the "Truck Squad" for approximately 9 years.

I am here today to let this committee know that I am in favor of the Raised Bill, #1379, "CONCERNING STATE POLICE INSPECTIONS OF VEHICLES AT WEIGH STATIONS."

When I graduated in 1992 with the 102nd Training Troop to become a Connecticut State Trooper, my goal was to become a member of the "Traffic Unit" which is now known as the "Traffic Services Unit". In September of 1998 I got my wish, and I was transferred by request to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team, "Truck Squad".

When I transferred into this unit, I realized that this unit was comprised of an elite group of individuals who take great pride in protecting and providing a safe environment for the citizens of this great state. These individuals have fine tuned their skills towards one goal which is to remove trucks from our roadways because these trucks are overweight, oversized or unsafe to travel on our highways. This highly trained group of individuals is driven by a passion for this particular specialty, and has dedicated their career in this particular area of expertise. Some of our members on the "Truck Squad" have as much as 16 – 20 years of dedicated service in this particular field.

To become a member of the "Truck Squad" one has to attend several specialty training classes which are taught by federally certified instructors. I currently hold certifications in:

- General Trucks & Logbooks
- Hazardous Material, which includes Bulk & Non-Bulk, and
- Cargo Tankers
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction on Trucks and Terrorism

By Connecticut General Statute we are already mandated to staff all the weigh stations throughout the state; Greenwich, Danbury, Middletown, and Waterford, with one exception being the Union scale house.

With the main objective of the "Truck Squad" being "Oversize & Overweight" enforcement it only makes sense for the Department of Public Safety to be responsible for all weigh station facilities. We already have the sufficient personnel and expertise to staff the stations if we were given this responsibility.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity by thanking this committee for your time and attention to this important matter and should you have any questions I would be more than happy to provide you with any additional information that would clarify any concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Carlo Guerra,
Department of Public Safety
Division of State Police
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team